



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2014

Dear Friends,

The featured speaker at our May meeting (at noon, Tuesday, May 20, at the Garland County Library) will be John J. Archibald of Benton, the publisher of *Ouachita Life* magazine and an avid Hot Springs/Garland County historian. John's topic will be "Discover Local History: Advanced Research Methods."

He will share several insights into the techniques he has used to bring the city's and Garland County's history to light. He'll give a special emphasis on reading old maps and tell where to find several historic locations near the city, including a pre-Civil War cattle trail, the Jesse James gang robberies' sites, and some surviving stagecoach roadbeds in the county. He'll also will welcome tips from the audience for further research.

John is a career journalist with a bachelor's degree in communications from Marquette University. He worked as a reporter for the *Pacific Daily News* of Agana, Guam, and the *Sentinel-Record* of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and as the editorial writer for the *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern* of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He shared the finalist award for the Gannett Freedom of Information Act Award in 2003 at the *Northwestern*. He shared the 1995 Wehco Media Newspapers Editor's Choice Award "Faces Behind the Names" at the *Sentinel-Record*. He also worked for a few years for the Ouachita Area Council Boy Scouts of America, where he achieved a Southern Region record in fundraising. He has authored two books.

We are in the process of installing an exhibit at the Ozark Bathhouse Cultural Center, run by the Friends of the National Park. Twenty paintings by local artist Catherine Thornton will be placed in a gallery in a few days. Some of these paintings are included in the book *The Art of History: Catherine Thornton's Hot Springs*, which the society published. Some of the paintings are new. All are based on historic places and scenes captured in photographs in the society's collection. We have provided text for the exhibit that gives the history of the places shown in the paintings.

One of the new paintings is of Alex and Gladys McClard's 1928 West Side Tourist Camp (on Albert Pike near the current site of McDonald's restaurant). When a traveler could not come up with the \$10 he owed for his cabin, he asked them to accept a recipe for "the world's greatest barbecue sauce." They accepted the recipe and decided to try it, so in 1928 the Westside Tourist Camp became Westside Bar-B-Que—with goat as its star attraction. In 1942, McClard's moved into its current location at 505 Albert Pike. Other new paintings show the three Hot Springs towers and Oaklawn Park, circa 1906.

Please visit the Ozark Bathhouse Cultural Center to see this exhibit and its other exhibits, including

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paintings and photographs by National Park Artists-in-Residence, memorabilia from the National Park's collections, and more. There is no admission fee.

The society has a guest spot on the Dick Antoine show on KNZG-AM at 7:00 am on the first Wednesday of each month. In May, our board member Clay Farrer did a great job as he talked about the history of tornadoes in Garland County. Clay researched this topic exhaustively for an article in The Record 2012.

We have given programs in May to the Hot Springs Chapter of the DAR, the local chapter of the Colonial Dames of America, and the Forum Club. We gave programs to 1,500 elementary students who attended Pioneer Days at the Garland County Fairgrounds and to quite a few members of the general public at that event, too.

President Dave Fastenow and I attended a reception at the County Club at which the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation awarded us a grant with which to get a video camera.

We have just installed new computers and scanners purchased with a grant from the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District.

Interesting donations this month include a 1949 Elks Day poster, a Sanborn Insurance Company map book, Lum and Abner postcards, and postcards of the Eastman Hotel, Central Avenue in 1923, the Gorge, and a "Ladies Bathing Department" in a bathhouse.

Tuesday's meeting will be our last monthly meeting until September. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Liz Robbins, Executive Director

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